

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

**Listing of the Claims:**

Please AMEND claims in accordance with the following:

1.     **(Original)**     An electrode catalyst, comprising:  
a conductive carrier, and  
a mixture containing a particulate noble metal and at least one particulate rare-earth oxide, the mixture being supported on said conductive carrier  
wherein said particulate rare-earth oxide has an alkaline-earth metal as solid solution therein.
2.     **(Currently Amended)**     The electrode catalyst according to claim 1, wherein said conductive carrier is a particulate ~~carb-on~~ carbon.
3.     **(Previously Presented)**     The electrode catalyst according to claim 1, wherein said noble metal is silver, platinum, or palladium.
4.     **(Previously Presented)**     The electrode catalyst according to claim 1, wherein said noble metal is silver.
5.     **(Previously Presented)**     The electrode catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of said noble metal to said rare-earth oxide is from 1 : 0.01 to 1 : 4.0.
6.     **(Previously Presented)**     The electrode catalyst according to claim 1, wherein said rare-earth oxide is cerium oxide.
7.     **(Previously Presented)**     The electrode catalyst according to claim 1, wherein said alkaline-earth metal is at least one selected from a group consisting of magnesium, calcium, and strontium.

8.     **(Original)**     The electrode catalyst according to claim 6, wherein the molar ratio of said cerium oxide to said alkaline-earth metal is from 1 : 0.005 to 1 : 0.3.

9.     **(Previously Presented)**     The electrode catalyst according to claim 1 for use in a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis.

10.    **(Previously Presented)**     A gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis, characterized by use of the electrode catalyst according to claim 1.

11.    **(Currently Amended)**     An electrode catalyst comprising a conductive carrier, and a mixture containing a particulate noble metal and at least one particulate rare-earth oxide, the mixture being supported on the conductive carrier.

12.    **(Previously Presented)**     A process for preparing a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis comprising laminating a reaction layer containing the electrode catalyst according to claim 1, a gas diffusion layer containing a conductive carrier, and a collector.

13.    **(Cancelled)**

14.    **(Previously Presented)**     A method for using the electrode catalyst according to claim 1, characterized in that the electrode catalyst is used as a catalyst component for the reaction layer of a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis.

15.    **(Previously Presented)**     A method for gas diffusion electrode-based brine electrolysis, comprising using the electrode catalyst according to claim 1.

16.    **(Previously Presented)**     The electrode catalyst according to claim 2, wherein said noble metal is silver, platinum, or palladium.

17.    **(Previously Presented)**     The electrode catalyst according to claim 16, wherein said noble metal is silver.

18.    **(Previously Presented)**     The electrode catalyst according to claim 17, wherein the molar ratio of said noble metal to said rare-earth oxide is from 1 : 0.01 to 1 : 4.0.

**19. (Previously Presented)** The electrode catalyst according to claim 18, wherein said rare-earth oxide is cerium oxide.

**20. (Previously Presented)** The electrode catalyst according to claim 19, wherein said alkaline-earth metal is at least one selected from a group consisting of magnesium, calcium, and strontium.

**21. (Previously Presented)** The electrode catalyst according to claim 20, wherein the molar ratio of said cerium oxide to said alkaline-earth metal is from 1 : 0.005 to 1 : 0.3.

**22. (Previously Presented)** The electrode catalyst according to claim 21 for use in a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis.

**23. (Previously Presented)** A gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis, characterized by use of the electrode catalyst according to claim 22.

**24. (Previously Presented)** A process for preparing a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis comprising laminating a reaction layer containing the electrode catalyst according to claim 22, a gas diffusion layer containing a conductive carrier, and a collector.

**25. (Cancelled)**

**26. (Previously Presented)** A method for using the electrode catalyst according to claim 22, characterized in that the electrode catalyst is used as a catalyst component for the reaction layer of a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis.

**27. (Previously Presented)** A method for gas diffusion electrode-based brine electrolysis, comprising using the electrode catalyst according to claim 22.

**28. (New)** The electrode catalyst of claim 11, wherein the particulate noble metal has a particle diameter of 100nm or less, and wherein the particulate rare-earth oxide has a particle diameter of 500nm or less.

**29. (New)** An electrode catalyst comprising a conductive carrier, and a mixture containing a particulate noble metal and at least one particulate rare-earth oxide, the mixture being supported on the conductive carrier, wherein the particulate noble metal has a particle diameter of 200nm or less, and wherein the particulate rare-earth oxide has a particle diameter of 500nm or less.

**30. (New)** The electrode catalyst of claim 11, wherein the mixture is fixed to the conductive carrier.

**31. (New)** A process for preparing a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis comprising laminating a reaction layer containing the electrode catalyst according to claim 11, a gas diffusion layer containing a conductive carrier, and a collector.

**32. (New)** A method for gas diffusion electrode-based brine electrolysis comprising using the electrode catalyst according to claim 11.

**33. (New)** A gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis characterized by the use of the electrode catalyst according to claim 11.

**34. (New)** The electrode catalyst of claim 11, wherein the electrode catalyst is suitable for an oxygen reduction reaction at a cathode in conjunction with a gas diffusion electrode for brine electrolysis.

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